

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A brush seal segment, comprising:

a bristle arrangement having a plurality of bristles and a retention section;

a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a channel to frictionally engage said retention section, said channel extending to an end of at least one of said plates;

each of said plates having a surface which abuts and contacts said bristles of said bristle arrangement and at least one of said surfaces forming a portion of said channel; and

wherein said channel allows movement of said retention section before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said retention section after said plates are secured together.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said channel has a width corresponding to a width of

said retention section and a length greater than a length of said retention section.

10. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said channel is located on at least one of said plates.

11. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 10, wherein said channel is located on both of said plates.

12. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.

13. (currently amended) A brush seal segment comprising:

a bristle arrangement having a plurality of bristles and a retention section;

a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a channel to frictionally engage said retention section on opposed sides of said retention section, said channel extending to an end of at least one of said plates;

wherein said channel allows movement of said retention section before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said retention section after said plates are secured together; and

wherein said brush seal segment is part of a packing ring.

14. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 13, wherein said packing ring includes a labyrinth seal.

15 - 22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said channel has a uniform depth.

24. (currently amended) A brush seal segment comprising:

a bristle arrangement having a retention section;

a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a channel to frictionally engage opposed sides of said retention section, said channel extending to an end of at least one of said plates;

wherein said channel allows movement of said retention section before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said retention section after said plates are secured together; and

wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a plurality of bristles abutting said plates and a weld joint securing said bristles together, and said weld joint is said retention section.